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18 May 1961

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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JCS, DIA and State Dept
review(s) completed.

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18 May 1961

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CONTENTS

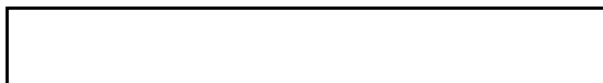


25X1

3. Iran: Shah to be out of the country for about a week. (*Page iv*)
4. Iraq: Negotiations of Iraq Petroleum Company with Qasim regime. (*Page iv*)
5. Jordan: Vocal opposition to King's impending marriage subsides. (*Page v*)



7. USSR: Venus probe launched 12 February to reach vicinity of planet about 19 May. (*Page v*)
8. Watch Committee conclusions. (*Page vi*)



25X1

Next 3 Page(s) In Document Exempt

25X1

Iran: [The Shah and a party of 19 left for an official visit to Norway on 17 May, and he is expected to be out of the country for about a week. Before leaving, the Shah appointed a regency council to rule in his absence consisting of Prime Minister Amini and Minister of Court Ala, and two members of the royal family, Prince Gholam Reza and Prince Abdol Reza.]

25X1

[Princess Ashraf, the Shah's twin sister, is reported to have left Iran on 14 May. Some of the royal family, particularly the two princes on the regency council, will presumably remain in Tehran at least until the Shah returns from Norway. Some of the Shah's unpopularity results from the intrigues and financial manipulations of the royal family, and their elimination from the scene would help further the image of a reformed government which Amini is attempting to create.]

25X1

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[The Watch Committee at its meeting on 17 May reached the following conclusion concerning Iran:]

[The implementation of reforms by the Amini government will at least temporarily result in a period of increased political instability. The opportunity for reaction to these reforms may be enhanced during the absence of the Shah.]

Note: [While the Director of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State, and the Director for Intelligence, The Joint Staff, agree that there is a continuing danger of a military coup in Iran, they do not believe that this danger is as great as it was several weeks ago or that it is materially accentuated by the absence of the Shah on a brief trip to Europe.]

25X1

25X1

Iraq-Oil: [Prime Minister Qasim apparently views recent conciliatory moves by the Iraq Petroleum Company (IPC) to resume negotiations as indicating company weakness. He may now attempt to enforce his government's demands for more revenue and part ownership of the company. Qasim responded to IPC Board Chairman Lord Monckton's personal letter of 30 April by publicly castigating "the avaricious, monopolist-imperialist companies which suck the blood and wealth of the"]

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18 May 61

DAILY BRIEF

iv

25X1

25X1

[redacted]
peoples" and which fear losing "the wealth upon which they have preyed for a number of years." The IPC appealed to the British Foreign Office for assistance on 9 May. [redacted]

25X1

Jordan: [redacted] There is continuing ferment in Jordan as a result of King Husayn's engagement to an Englishwoman, but talk of wholesale cabinet resignations and of widespread disaffection within the army has abated. The King's supporters have discontinued their efforts to get him to change his mind in view of his determination to carry out his plans. A newly organized Royal Armored Force commanded by the King's uncle, Sharif Nasir, probably will be able to control any disturbances that might develop at the time of the wedding, on or about 25 May. Anti-regime political elements like the Baath party now apparently favor the marriage because of the ultimate advantage it could afford them. [redacted]

25X1

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25X1

25X1

[redacted]
USSR: The Soviet interplanetary probe launched on 12 February is expected to reach the vicinity of Venus on or about OK

18 May 61

DAILY BRIEF

v

[redacted] 25X1

19 May. If this space ship passes within about 60,000 miles of Venus, as Moscow claims it will, it will be a major technical achievement. The USSR admitted several months ago, however, that no communications had been received from the probe during the regular transmission period on 27 February, and Moscow's silence on the subject thereafter suggests that no further communications have been received. The USSR may therefore have no way to confirm the probe's trajectory. The contribution of this space operation to scientific knowledge of Venus and its environment will be nil unless communications can be re-established. Soviet descriptions and photographs indicate that the probe is equipped with directional long-range communications equipment. Despite the failure to communicate at relatively close range, the USSR may be able to reactivate this equipment as the vehicle reaches the vicinity of Venus.

25X1

WATCH COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS

25X1

A. No change from last week.

B. No change from last week.

25X1

E. IRAN: Carried on Page iv of the Daily Brief.

25X1

18 May 61

DAILY BRIEF

vi

25X1

Next 3 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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The Special Assistant for National Security Affairs

The Scientific Adviser to the President

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The Director, Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization

The Director, National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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The Department of State

The Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State

The Director, International Cooperation Administration

The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Administration

The Counselor and Chairman of the Policy Planning Council

The Director of Intelligence and Research

The Treasury Department

The Secretary of the Treasury

The Department of Defense

The Secretary of Defense

The Deputy Secretary of Defense

The Secretary of the Army

The Secretary of the Navy

The Secretary of the Air Force

The Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs)

The Assistant to Secretary of Defense (Special Operations)

The Chairman, The Joint Chiefs of Staff

Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy

Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

Chief of Staff, United States Army

Commandant, United States Marine Corps

U.S. Rep., Military Committee and Standing Group, NATO

Supreme Allied Commander, Europe

Commander in Chief, Pacific

The Director, The Joint Staff

The Director for Intelligence, The Joint Staff

The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of Army

The Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of Navy

The Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Department of the Air Force

The Department of Justice

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